

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 /043 W

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R 210900Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3253

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6428

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TO TEXTS NBRD PARA FIVE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, CH, TW, US

SUBJECT: SENATOR FONG'S VISIT TO ROC

REF: TAIPEI 3275 (NODIS)

1. SUMMARY: DURING OCT 13-17 VISIT TO ROC, SENATOR FONG WAS GIVEN FIRST-CLASS VIP TREATMENT, MET WITH MANY KEY GROC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PREMIER, AND TOOK WHIRLWIND TOURS OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INSTALLATIONS IN EAST, CENTRAL, AND SOUTHERN TAIWAN. FONG RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE THROUGHOUT VISIT.

2. RECURRENT THEMES OF FONG'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GROC OFFICIALS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) INCLUDED: FONG WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS MADE ON TAIWAN SINCE HIS LAST VISIT 15 YEARS AGO; US DID NOT TAKE TREATY COMMITMENTS LIGHTLY AND WOULD NOT RENEGE ON ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN; HIS VISITS TO PRC AND ROC HAD CONVINCED HIM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SOCIETIES WERE TOO BROAD TO PERMIT REUNIFICATION -- EVEN NEGOTIATIONS WERE OUT OF THE QUESTION; AND HE WAS CONVINCED ROC WOULD BE ABLE AND DETERMINED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ANY PRC EFFORT TO TAKE

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OVER TAIWAN. END SUMMARY

3. DURING OCT 13-17 VISIT TO ROC, SENATOR FONG WAS GIVEN ULTRA-VIP TREATMENT BY GROC. HE MET WITH MADAME CHIANG, VICE PRESIDENT YEN, PREMIER CHIANG, FONMIN SHEN, DEFMIN KAO, CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL LAI, AND OTHER KEY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS. VISITS TO MILITARY BASES, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND SCENIC SPOTS WERE LAID ON AND SENATOR IN EVERY CASE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS. FONG ALSO ATTENDED OCT 16 LUNCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR AND RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM EMBASSY, TDC AND MAAG.

4. IN OCT 15 MEETING WITH FONG, PREMIER CHAING MENTIONED FOUR POINTS AMBASSADOR CONVEYED TO HIM LAST MAY (REFTEL) AND SAID ROC HAS WELCOMED EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS. HE ASSURED FONG ROC WILL STAND BY US IN PEACE AS WELL AS WAR, REMAINING TRUE FRIEND AND ALLY WHATEVER THE ADVERSE CONDITIONS. FONG SAID HE RECOGNIZED ROC HAD BEEN TRUE ALLY AND THAT WE FOR OUR PART WOULD STAND BY OUR COMMITMENTS.

5. CCK ADDED THAT CHINESE PROBLEM NOT SIMPLY MATTER OF RIVAL GROUPS OR CONTENDING LEADERS OR FACTIONS BUT RATHER MATTER OF MOST PROFOUND DIFFERENCES AND PRINCIPLES BETWEEN ROC AND MAINLAND. IN REPLY, FONG SAID HIS PARALLEL VISITS TO PRC AND ROC HAD ENABLED HIM TO APPRECIATE HOW STRONGLY OPPOSED TWO SOCIETIES ARE IN IDEOLOGY AND SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. HE DID NOT SEE HOW EVEN WISEST SOLOMON COULD BRING THEM TOGETHER PEACEFULLY UNDER ONE GOVERNMENT IN 100. 63-4 . COMMENTING ON TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS ON TAIWAN OVER 15 YEARS SINCE PREVIOUS VISIT, FONG URGED CCK TO RECOGNIZE ROC NOT SMALL AND HAD CONSIDERABLE MILITARY CAPACITY. HE WAS CONFIDENT ROC COULD TAKE CARE OF ITSELF. FOR HIS PART, HE REGARDED US-ROC FRIENDSHIP AS "EVERLASTING", FONG SAID.

6. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, FONG EMPHASIZED HIS CONVICTION THAT HIS VISITS TO PRC AND ROC HAVE SHOWN THEY ARE SO INCOMPATIBLE THAT HE HAS REVISED HIS EARLIER ASSUMPTION THAT PERHAPS SOME
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WAY COULD BE FOUND TO BRING THEM TOGETHER. HE BELIEVES PEOPLE ON TAIWAN WOULD RESIST WITH FORCE ANY MAINLAND THREAT TO TAKE OVER TAIWAN. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUERY, FONG RULED OUT, ON BASIS DISCUSSIONS HERE, ANY POSSIBILITY OF AUTHORITIES ON TAIWAN BEING READY TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC.

7. RESPONDING TO TOAST AT VICE PRESIDENT YEN'S OCT 16

DINNER, FONG FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINE, STATING: HE WAS IMPRESSED BY REMARKABLE PROGRESS MADE ON TAIWAN SINCE LAST VISIT, THAT US WOULD NEVER RENEGE ON ITS 1954 MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY COMMITMENT TO ROC, THAT HIS CURRENT VISIT CONVINCED HIM THERE NO POSSIBILITY FOR ROC AND PRC TO NEGOTIATE RESOLUTION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES, THAT ONLY FORCE WITH ONE VICTOR AND ONE LOSER EMERGING COULD RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, AND THAT HE WAS CONVINCED ROC WOULD DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ANY PRC EFFORT TO TAKE OVER TAIWAN.

8. IN MEETING WITH DEFMIN KAO, FONG ALSO STRESSED TAIWAN'S PROGRESS AND US INTENTION TO HONOR COMMITMENTS. FONG SAID HE ASKED PRC DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT SINCE PRC, ROC AND US ALL AGREE THERE SHOULD ONLY BE ONE CHINA, WHAT ARE CHANCES OF NEGOTIATION TO SOLVE PROBLEM? PRC DEP FONMIN REPLIED US SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED WITH TAIWAN ISSUE SINCE IT IS INTERNAL MATTER AND THAT IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT ISSUE TO PRC. IT WOULD TAKE LONG TIME TO SOLVE -- MAYBE 100 YEARS.

9. MEETING WITH GENERAL LAI AND SUBSEQUENT MND BRIEFING CENTERED ON DISCUSSION OF F-5E PROGRAM, DEFENSE FINANCING AND CREDIT LOANS. LAI EMPHASIZED ROC PAYS HEAVY PRICE FOR DEFENSE OF FREEDOM AND MUST STAY STRONG. HE SAID ROC WOULD LIKE AND NEEDS MORE USG LOANS; FAILING THAT, WOULD LIKE MORE GUARANTEED COMMERCIAL CREDIT LOANS WITH LOWER INTEREST RATE. LAI STATED ROC WOULD LIKE LEVEL OF US\$80 MILLION FMS CREDIT IN OUT YEARS AND NEEDS THAT LEVEL BECAUSE REPAYMENT SCHEDULE, WHICH ROC MEETS CONSISTENTLY, IS APPROACHING LEVEL OF \$50 MILLION PER YEAR. FONG ASKED WHETHER DEFERMENT OF PAYMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL AND WAS TOLD ONLY IF IT WOULD BE FOR EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME, I.E. ABOUT 5 YEARS. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS

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PRESENT AT BRIEFING CITED ROC PRIORITIES: SEMOR USE OF LOANS AS: IMPROVEMENT OF LOW ALTITUDE AIR DEFENSE, CAPITAL FOR SEMI-AUTOMATION OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND MONEY (AND CLEARANCE) TO BUY HARPOON MISSILE SYSTEM. FONG WAS IMPRESSED WITH MND PRESENTATION, LATER TELLING MAAG CHIEF ROC WAS COUNTRY WHICH HAD DRAWN FULL VALUE FROM MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND HAD CONSISTENTLY GOOD REPAYMENT LEVEL.

10. FONG'S TRIP RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE FROM LOCAL PRESS. ALL LOCAL PAPERS EMPHASIZED FONG'S CONVICTION THAT US WILL FIRMLY ADHERE TO TREATY COMMITMENTS AND THAT ROC-US FRIENDSHIP WILL BE FIRM AND LASTING. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO PRESS WAS FONG'S DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, IN WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY ASK KISSINGER "TO VISIT TAIPEI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" AND

THAT US "SHOULD PROVIDE ROC WITH MORE ADVANCED AND
SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES."

11. MEMCONS BEING SENT BY POUCH.
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